(c) how many ships are imported for ship-breaking during the last five years-sourcewise; and

(d) the details of the foreign proposals received in this regard and followup action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the proposals received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) A delegation of the Joint Committee of Ship Owners and Ship-breakers of Japan visited India in November, 1992 to survey the shipbreaking capacity in India.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taping over of IISCO

3200. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the opposition from the five major trade unions HMS, BMS, CITU, INTUC and AITUC to the proposed conversion of the Burnpur Steel Plant of the IISCO into a joint venture;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure and safeguard the interests of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trade unions had suggested in July, 1992 and reiterated in March 1993 that the Burnpur Works of IISCO should be modernised by SAIL based on its proposal considered by Government; the Burnpur Works cannot be treated separately as a joint venture; etc.

(c) Government are examining possibilities of private participation in IISCO for the purpose of modernising/expanding the Burnpur Steel Works to a crude steel capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, in a cost and time-effective manner. While doing so, Government are committed to ensuring full protection of the Workers' interests.

Extension to Executives of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

3201. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of executives of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant who got extension in Service, so far;

(b) the number of proposals which are still pending for clearance; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) In one case, extension of service was granted for a period of two years beyond the age of superannuation. In another case, an Executive was re-employed for the period of 6 months after his retirement on superannuation. Approval of Government was given in these two cases in public interest

(b) No such proposal is pending with the Government.

(c) Extension of service beyond the age of superannuaion is allowed only rarely and in exceptional circumstances in public interest.

Handing over of IISCO to Mukund Ltd.

3202. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of foreign and Indian companies which have made formal bid in equity participation in the Joint venture for Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) whether Shankar Committee has recommended handing over of Indian Iron and Steel Company to Mukund Ltd.;

(c) if so, what are the details of recommendations made; and